

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /081 W

----- 019439

R 100818 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2104

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS UG

SUBJECT: BRITISH CORRESPONDENT PHILIP SHORT DEPORTED

SUMMARY: PHILIP SHORT, SOLE FULL- TIME WESTERN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT RESIDENT IN UGANDA, HAS BEEN ORDER DEPORTED BY GOU. ANNOUNCED REASON IS THAT HE HAS SENT ABROAD INFORMATION DAMAGING GOOD NAME OF UGANDA. END SUMMARY.

1. GOU SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED MARCH 9 THAT CORRESPONDENT PHILIP SHORT IS TO BE DEPORTED FROM COUNTRY QTE FOR SENDING TO OTHER PARTS OF WORLD INFORMATION DAMAGING THE GOOD NAME OF UGANDA UNQTE. SHORT MUST LEAVE MARCH 10. SPOKESMAN SAID DEPORTATION ORDER FOLLOWED INVESTIGATION BY UGANDA POLICE WOMEN, WHO FOUND THAT HE HAD BEEN SENDING OUT TO OTHER PARTS OF WORLD SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES DAMAGING INFORMATION ABOUT UGANDA. EVIDENCE WAS GROUP OF PHOTOGRAPHS WITH COVERING LETTER INTERCEPTED BY MEMBERS SECURITY FORCES. WHEN SHORT WAS SHOWN THESE PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTS, AND SIGNATURE ON LETTER, HE AGREED SIGNATURE WAS HIS. WAS STATED THAT SHORT USED " DIFFERENT ADDRESS" WHEN SENDING THESE DOCUMENTS.

2. SPOKESMAN COMMENTED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE MOST OF
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DAMAGING REPORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN CARRIED BY OVERSEAS PRESS MIGHT HAVE BEEN SENT OUT BY SHORT. ALSO POSSIBLE, HE ADDED, THAT SHORT COULD HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATING WITH THE GUERRILLAS BY SENDING THEM INFORMATION AND PICTURES OF PERSONALITIES IN UGANDA TO BE ASSASSINATED. INVESTIGATIONS HAVE SHOWN THAT SHORT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DEPORTED FROM MALAWI. POLICE WOMEN, SPOKESMAN SAID, THEREFORE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ADVISE GOVERNMENT TO DEPORT SHORT IN INTEREST OF GOOD NAME OF UGANDA.

3. SHORT SIGNED HIS DEPORTATION ORDER AT POLICE HQ, TOLD POLICE HE PREFERRED BEING SENT TO KENYA RATHER THAN BRITAIN, THANKED POLICE FOR " HANDLING HIM CAREFULLY."

4. COMMENT: SHORT HAS FALLEN AFOUL OF GOU PARANOIA. HE HAS BEEN IN UGANDA ABOUT TWO YEARS, AS CORRESPONDENT FOR REUTERS, BBC, LONDON TIMES, AND HAS BEEN STRINGER FOR HOST OF OTHER ENGLISH- LANGUAGE MEDIA, INCLUDING SOME AMERICAN. PEOPLE HERE HAVE GENERALLY BEEN AMAZED THAT HE HAS SURVIVED SO LONG, AND HAVE ADMIRERED SKILL WITH WHICH HE HAS REPORTED FULLY AND OBJECTIVELY LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS WITHOUT GETTING INTO HOT WATER WITH GOU (UP TILL NOW). HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON VERY GOOD TERMS WITH GENERAL AMIN, WHO CALLS HIM " BROTHER SHORT." GOU IS CORRECT THAT HE HAS BEEN SOURCE OF MOST OF INFORMATION REACHING OUTSIDE MEDIA ABOUT UGANDA, BUT IF THAT INFORMATION HAS DAMAGED UGANDA' S " GOOD NAME" IT HAS BEEN FAULT OF GOU RATHER THAN OF CORRESPONDENT SHORT.
KEELEY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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